

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 5, 2003, claims 14-26 are pending and all claims are rejected.

Objection was made to claims 14-26 allegedly because "in claim 14, line 11, it is not clear what the 'second edge' is connected to" and "the 'for' clause in line 1 of the same makes no sense as worded." The above amendment is submitted to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention. It is considered that the amendment does not change the scope of the claim.

Claims 14-20 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mikami et al. (US 4,398,612). However, Mikami et al. describe a weighing apparatus with a plurality of feed troughs wherein each trough has but **one bottom surface 3** that is bordered by side wall sections 3", 4, 5 and 6. That is clearly different from the presently claimed invention wherein **each supply trough has a bottom with a *first bottom face* and a *second bottom face***. See, for example, bottom faces 17, 18 in FIG. 3 of the drawings in the present application. Thus, the trough of Mikami et al is substantially different from the presently claimed invention.

Thus, it is not seen how the present invention is anticipated by, or would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of, Mikami et al.

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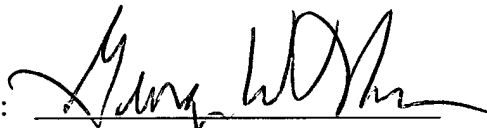
It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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